

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 /087 W

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R 141429Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.OM 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GH NG

SUBJECT: NIGER PRESIDNET'S STATE VISIT TO GHANA

1. NIGER PRESIDENT SENYI KOUNTCHE AND WHAT WAS REPORTED AS EITHER A 14-MEMBER OF 17-MEMBER NIGERIAN DELEGATION DROPPED IN ON GHANA FOR A STATE VISIT MAY 10-13, 1975. DESPITE HAVING HAD LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE, THE GHANAIS LAID ON A AIRPORT GREETING BY THE HEAD OF STATE, A STATE DINNER, A STATE RECEPTION, TOURS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE COMPANY OF GHANA'S HEAD OF STATE, AND A "STATE DRIVE" THROUGH CENTRAL ACCRA THAT TIED UP DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC FOR TWO HOURS ON A SATURDAY MORNING.

2. SPEECHES AND PRESS STATEMENTS ACCOMPANYING THESE AFFAIRS EXPRESSED THE USUAL RUN OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION AND PLEDGES OF MUTUAL SUPPORT, THE IMPORTANCE OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC

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COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION. PRESIDENT

KOUNTCHE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FRANCOPOHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD CERTAINLY MERGE WITH THE PROPOSED WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY -"THIS IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME." THE TWO HEADS OF STATE MET FORMALLY MAY 11 TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

3. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT STATED THAT RESPECTIVE EXPERTS HAD "INITIATED USEFUL STEPS TOWARD THE CONCLUSION OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL, LEGAL, ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER FIELDS," AND CALLED FOR EXPEDITIOUS ACTION TO PRODUCE A DRAFT AGREEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNATURE. FUTURE GHANA-NIGER COOPERATION WAS TO BE THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION ESTABLISHED BETWEEN GHANA AND NIGER IN 1971 AND LEFT DORMANT EVER SINCE. THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD MEET WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO GET ON WITH THE ABOVE AGREEMENT-DRAFTING, BUT DID NOT FIX A VENUE OR SPECIFIC TIME FOR THE MEETING.

4. COMMUNIQUE FURTHER AGREED ON URGENT NEED FOR MEANINGFUL STEPS TOWARD SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, STATED TWO LEADERS HAD REVIEWED SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION EFFORTS AND SUPPORTED OAU POSITION ON THESE MATTERS, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME. CHAIRMAN ACHEAPONG ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT NIGER.

5. COMMENT: GHANAIS ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS, AND ACHEAMPNG WAS NO DOUBT PLEASED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY FRIENDSHIP FOR FELLOW-AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE. NEVERTHELESS, WORKING-LEVEL GHANAIS DO WISH FRANCOPHONE BROTHERS PARTICULARLY WOULD LEARN TO PLAN THESE THINGS A BIT FARTHER IN ADVANCE. TANGIBLE INTEREST OF GHANAIS IN NIGER-GHANA RELATIONS IS POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING REGULAR MEAT SUPPLIES FROM NIGER TO RELIEVE CHRONIC SHORTAGES HERE. DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW FRIENDLY TALKS ALONE CAN OVERCOME GHANA'S INABILITY TO PAY REGULARLY IN HARD CURRENCY, WHICH HAS BEEN MAIN FACTOR IN COMPLICATION FORMER ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING SUCH SUPPLIERS AS UPPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOLTA, SENEGAL, AND CHAD.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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